

Dwelling House Building Boom On

Torrance Herald



TENTH YEAR

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HUGE DRILLING PROGRAM IN LOCAL FIELD LAUNCHED BY BIG COMPANIES

Standard, Doheny, Shell, Will Drill Scores Of Wells

Marble Ranch and Eastern Extension Scenes of Intensive Operations by Giants of Industry

S. O. CO. TRIPLES ITS PAYROLL IN FIELD

Operations of Shell and Standard in East, Doheny and Standard in West, Give District New Life

STANDARD INCREASES OIL PRICES 25 CENTS

The Standard Oil Company Monday night announced a 25 cent increase in the price of all grades of crude oil. The announcement comes at a time when Standard and other big companies are launching gigantic drilling programs in the Torrance-Lomita-Keystone oil areas. It means much to owners of royalties in the field here, being an increase of almost 50 per cent on grades heretofore listed at 60 cents and upwards.

Giants of the petroleum industry have come to grips in gigantic fight to recover the oil in the Torrance-Lomita field. The battle opens at a time when the smaller companies with wells in the closely drilled areas are putting their producers on the beam, and when decreased yield per well has sent a wave of pessimism over the field. It finds the Standard Oil company, titan of the industry, engaged in an offset battle with the Petroleum Securities company, child of the big Doheny interests. It finds Standard and Shell, the greatest American company and the largest European organization, at grips in the eastern extension, where Superior and Sentinel have also joined the struggle.

The Standard-Doheny battle is taking place on the big Marble ranch and is proceeding with such vim that operators watching the development wonder if the big companies have some inside information regarding Union's Weston No. 1, south and west of the Marble property.

In territory yet unproven Standard recently spudded in Marble No. 1 and No. 2. Immediately the Doheny company staked out locations for 25 wells.

During the past week Standard has increased its payroll in the local field 300 per cent, exclusive of the pipe line crews.

To Drill 30 Wells That this increase is only a beginning is assured by the information that Standard expects to be running 30 strings in the field within a few weeks.

Many of these new wells will be drilled on the Marble ranch. In addition to its already large holdings in fee on the Marble property, Standard recently acquired 50 more acres immediately south of Doheny's holdings, so that Standard property now hems in Doheny leases on the south and west. On the south Standard is already building six derricks.

All of this property, destined for such intensive drilling program, is west and south of production. The fact that these two big companies are planning such a program without drilling test wells first leads students of the field to the conclusion that showings on Union's Weston No. 1 may be of a nature not made public.

Standard and Shell

In the eastern extension, Standard took the lead in development, pioneering the area with Dominguez No. 1. When this well came in the Shell company, with large holdings to the east, staked out four new locations. The Dutch concern is now drilling these four, and has located four more wells. Standard then located Dominguez No. 2 and No. 3 and started two strings running on the Interstate lease.

Last Saturday Superior brought in Torrance No. 4, the most easterly producer in the field. With a heavy gas pressure, similar to Sentinel's Joughlin and Standard's Dominguez No. 1, this new Keok producer is producing somewhat better than 1000 barrels of oil a day. It was completed at 3900 feet.

Along the old Redondo road (east) is taking place a development that recalls the rush on the west end of the same highway a few months ago, except that the new wells are located on large leases.

Sentinel and Superior have each located new wells. Standard has one well standing cemented on the Kettler lease and Chanslor-Canfield has one producer and 13 drilling wells on its Kettler lease holdings, with still one more being swabbed for production. The Pan American has located three wells on a five-acre lease. A mile east of production, Consolidated Mutual has completed Oakley No. 1 at 3800 feet, and test for production will be made this week.

Indicating the tenseness of the struggle is the speed with which Standard is drilling its Interstate and Marble ranch wells, a speed not usually characteristic of the big, conservative company.

On the Marble ranch the two Standard wells are down almost 2500 feet after having been drilled a little more than two weeks. The company has shown similar speed on the Interstate lease.

Shell Well Wet The Shell company's Keystone No. 1 showed salt water when tested for production the other day, and it is thought a leak in the liner is responsible. The liner is being pulled out. It will be remembered that Standard's Dominguez No. 1 made some water before going on production.

The big battle of the big companies gives renewed interest to the field. With big programs of drilling under way it is now apparent that the advantages of a substantial oil field payroll will last much longer than was anticipated a couple of weeks ago when intensive drilling was halted.

Observations

State Holds Up Deep Drilling—Make the Best Mousetrap, but Pave the Pathway—Local Human Interest

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

WHILE landowners and oil operators are placing high hopes on the possible potentialities of the deep oil sands in the Torrance-Lomita field, state authorities refuse to grant permission for deep drilling in proven territory.

The ruling of the state officials is reasonable. Under the top formation, from which all the wells in the field are now producing, lies a salt water sand. To penetrate this in an area of producing wells might destroy the top formation. Failure to shut the salt water off at the bottom of the oil-yielding formation would bring irreparable damage to the field.

Several companies have sought permission to probe down to deeper levels. But the state has remained firm.

It is just as well, perhaps. Let them drain that top formation first. The best storage for oil is Nature's own.

In the meantime the Standard Oil company is drilling a deep test wildcat in the far northern limits of the field. The big company, from the log of this well, will learn much about the potentialities of the deep levels further south.

The Standard was permitted to drill deep because the well is a wildcat with no producers in the vicinity.

HARRY SINCLAIR, E. L. Doheny and President Kingsbury of the Standard Oil Company of California have all predicted an increase in the price of crude oil.

Mr. Sinclair found time between senate investigations to declare that a shortage of petroleum stocks now looms up.

This is good news for the owners of oil royalties in the local field and for landowners.

When the price of oil doubles and the companies tap the deep sands of the Torrance-Lomita field, everyone will be delighted that the big production did not come when crude was selling from 60 to 70 cents a barrel.

He who hesitates may be lost, but patience has its own reward.

BOTH the county and the city of Los Angeles have completed surveys of Western avenue, from the end of the pavement to the northern limits of Torrance.

This is the best news we have been privileged to publish in months. With Western avenue a paved highway from the mountains to the sea, Torrance and Lomita will experience unprecedented development.

We have harped on this subject so long that it may seem stale. But its importance to everyone in the peninsula district cannot be stated too often or in too emphatic terms.

Transportation nourishes cities. You might make the best mousetrap, as Emerson said, but the world will no longer beat a path to your door unless you pave the pathway first.

WITH Western avenue paved and open to traffic, several east-west highways should receive attention. Only constant hammering gets results in these days when every district in the county is demanding more and more paved ways.

Carson street should be repaved east from Torrance to Harbor boulevard, and then extended to the Orange county line—at least to Long Beach boulevard.

Weston street in Lomita should be extended eastward to Long Beach. There is no paved east-west highway between Riverside boulevard and the Long Beach-Redondo road. There should be at least two. Anaheim street is in bad condition. Riverside boulevard is crowded with traffic. Money has been appropriated for months for the crushed rock extension of Western avenue south to the coast highway, opening a new route to San Pedro. This road should be put through at once.

THE peninsula district is charged with the never-ending task of keeping everlastingly at it, until adequate highways are provided to serve the increasingly heavy traffic that is congesting the thoroughfares.

We cannot get all these highways at once. But all of them have been already suggested and all of them are needed.

Get highways for transportation and the progressive spirit of native and adopted Californians will build up the Torrance and Lomita districts into marvelous communities.

Transportation is the key. Let's keep turning it.

NO department of a newspaper is more important to the publishers than the classified section. This for one very important reason: Everybody reads the want-ads. They contain a never-ending, never-dulled sharpness of human interest unavailable any other place.

The want-ads inform readers that Mrs. So-and-So has her house for rent. "That means she is probably going to visit her son up in Sacramento for the rest of the winter."

Or Mrs. Whatersname finds through the "wants" the very thing she wanted, a walnut table, for sale cheap.

Used automobile bargains, splendid opportunities for real estate investment, chances for jobs, articles lost, articles found, cows for sale, chances to swap—most anything!

The classified section is a kaleidoscope of human activities. We are gratified that the classified department of our paper is growing so remarkably.

Use the want-ads and you take advantage of the unusual reader interest that attaches itself to this department.

Oil Edge Location Spurs Lot Owners To Put up Houses

Building Supply Houses and Contractors Declare 1924 Will Be City's Greatest Year for Homes

JANUARY PERMITS SET A NEW RECORD

Northwest Section Sees Start of Brisk Development to Supply Demand for Torrance Residences

Nineteen twenty-four will break all records for dwelling house construction in Torrance.

This is the opinion of contractors building supply house representatives, and realtors.

Since the first of the year permits for construction of residences have broken all previous January records.

In addition to the permits for 23 houses taken out by J. W. McDowell, a score more permits for homes, mostly for the northwestern section of the city, have been taken out.

Now that the edges of the oil structure are becoming more and more exactly defined, owners of vacant lots, who have been waiting oil development, are planning dwelling-house construction to turn their lots into money-producing properties.

Most of the dwellings under construction or projected are of the type that will sell from \$4000 to \$6000.

The Consolidated Lumber company reports an unprecedented January demand for building materials and requests for estimates.

Morrison and McAuley, who recently purchased a large lot at the

corner of Sonoma and Amapola, are starting work on their first house. They plan to build three houses as a starter. Mr. Morrison is an experienced contractor who was attracted here from Los Angeles by the great demand for moderate-priced homes.

Recent building permits for dwellings are as follows: 1810 1/2 Martin avenue, Camella Ladd, 3-room bungalow, \$1000; 151 1/2 Engracia avenue, George L. Houren, 5-room residence, \$2900; 2267 Sonoma avenue, Morrison and McAuley, 4-room bungalow, \$3000; 903 Amapola, Robert Powell, 6-room duplex and garage, \$4500; 1008 Amapola, Pacific Electric Land company, 4-room dwelling, \$2870, L. E. Stoner, contractor; 1695 Susana avenue, George Woodside, 5-room dwelling, \$4500; 901 Portola, E. H. Feninger, 3-room house and garage, \$1500, D. C. Hayes, contractor; 1308 Portola, J. Holm, 5-room dwelling, \$3000; rear of 1819 Cabrillo, M. H. Tyler, 2 rooms and garage, \$500.

Several syndicates are making plans for the construction of groups of homes. One projected plan contemplates the construction of 30 modern, moderately priced dwellings.

DR. W. H. BRUCE—OSTEOPATH

By THE MYSTERIOUS COWBOY



Osteopathy is the old stand-by. To me, it has always appealed as the most reassuring and efficacious means of remedy. Dignified, of long standing and counting in its ranks some of our ablest people, Osteopathy has, indeed, found a ready place in the lives of the American people. Dr. W. H. Bruce, highly trained in the science of Osteopathy, is a man of true professional bearing. Just one look at his features would assure you that he is a professional man. He was born in Kentucky and raised in Missouri—a rather high tribute to any man, that in itself. Dr. Bruce started with medicine but he did not continue that science as his life's work. Living but a short distance from the mother school of Osteopathy at Kirksville, Mo., Dr. Bruce lost no time in entering this institution of learning, and was in due time graduated a full-fledged Osteopath.

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